



OBT established 1903

PureLand Path

The Oregon Buddhist Temple Monthly Newsletter

May 2009



Repaying our Indebtedness ***Rev. Jundo Gregory Gibbs***

I wonder - do you own your own home? How much equity do you have in your home? I think we have a little bit of equity in our home. My wife and I,

however, are still paying on our automobile and could not sell it for as much as we owe on it. Sound familiar? How about moral equity? How much positive karma have you accumulated in your lifetime? Does it outweigh the negative karma you have generated? If the quality of any future life will be based on personal moral equity, on our individual karmic desserts, how long do you think it will be before you and I are liberated from suffering and awoken to the truth, becoming lastingly happy and truly free?

Our denominational founder, Shinran, was born 5-21-1173. This coming May 17th we will celebrate his birthday. We think of this service in terms of repaying our indebtedness to Shinran by showing our respect and by opening our minds and hearts to the Buddhist teachings one more time. We are indebted to Shinran because he is the first scholar-practitioner in Buddhist history to clearly tell us, "You can become a Buddha with zero personal moral equity. Amida Buddha has been depositing merit into the Fundamental Vow account for eons. We draw from the Buddha's moral equity account all the time and will again when it is time to make that transition to the next life." Of course, he didn't put it exactly in those terms, but that was his message.

It isn't just Shinran's message; it is the teaching of the Larger Sutra [Dai Mu Ryo Ju Kyo]. This ancient Buddhist teaching had been studied and contemplated by monks, nuns and devout lay Buddhists for something like 1,700 years before Shinran pointed out its clear intent – the Buddha's moral equity is given to us freely and will cover all of our indebtedness.

On May 17th when we celebrate the birthday of our denominational founder, Gotan – E, we will also hold infant

presentation. The proper term for this is hatsumairi, literally "first (Buddhist) service". This first service or child presentation can be done at any age but is seldom done with a young person past the age of sixteen. Even so, it is not just for infants. We also acknowledge our new members at this time.

The membership donation is currently \$200 and is one, crucial, way in which people support our temple. We also depend on your returning the envelopes that come with the newsletter when you can make those donations. Everyone is welcome at our services, exercise classes and study classes. No one is excluded because they cannot currently afford to pay a membership or make other donations. Even so, we very much appreciate the financial support we receive from most of you who read this temple newsletter.

The 110 year history of the hundred or so Jodo Shinshu Buddhist temples that have been founded in North America shows us that no temple closes if it continues to draw new members. On the other hand, if they cease drawing new members temples must close even if they have hundreds of thousands of dollars in real estate equity and other valuables.

We are drawing new members and like to acknowledge them the day we celebrate the birthday of our founder, Shinran. We hope that members and attendees at our services and other activities feel that they have been benefited by the teachings we have received from the Buddha and by the simplification and clarification those teachings were given by Shinran. Those who are aware of the benefits they draw from their participation in the life of this temple will help us with volunteer labor and with financial gifts when they are able. I hope you all realize that you are drawing on the Buddhas vast equity, the Fundamental Vow of Universal Liberation [Hon Gan]. Please come celebrate this wonderful teaching and the deep insight of Shinran on May 17th. At 9:30 a.m. there will be a brief service with a Japanese-language message. Our main service, including a twenty-minute long English-language Dharma message will begin at 10 a.m. See you then?

Gassho, Reverend Gibbs

"The purpose of the Oregon Buddhist Temple is to insure that the Jodo Shinshu Sangha have the facilities, resident minister and other resources they need to share the BuddhaDharma in their daily lives and during their major life events."

Oregon Buddhist Temple 3720 SE 34th Avenue Portland, OR 97202-3037 503-234-9456
503-231-1551 (fax) e-mail: oregonbuddhisttemple@yahoo.com website: <http://www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com>
This monthly newsletter is published by the Oregon Buddhist Temple, a Buddhist Churches of America temple affiliated with Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-Ha. Please contact the temple with any comments, questions or concerns, or if you wish to report a change of address. Send news items to the editors: Shinya Ichikawa and Jayne Ichikawa, sjichi@verizon.net

May 3	Japanese Community Graduation Banquet, MAC	5 pm
May 8	OBT Board Meeting	7 pm
May 17	Gotane/750 th Shinran Memorial/ Mothers Day/Infant and new member recognition service, followed by refreshments	9:30 am
May 23	OBWA Meeting	9:30 am
May 25	Memorial Day Services	
	Temple	9 am
	Gresham Cemetery	10:30 am
	Rose City Cemetery	noon
	Rose City Japanese American Community Service	1 pm
	Lone Fir Cemetery	2:30 pm



President's message ***Yoshi Ono, OBT President***

One of the tasks of the OBT board of directors is to ensure the long term vitality of our Sangha and to make the best possible decisions for our future.

Last year, when the property to the south, adjacent to the temple annex became available, the asking price (\$790k) was well beyond what most of us considered as reasonable. We have seen the price drop steadily to the point that the asking price is now \$479k. A relative bargain but still higher than the assessed value of \$440k. The size of lot is 0.52 acres, approximately the size of our parking lot, and zoned R2 such that 11 residential units can be constructed. How it eventually gets developed will determine the impact on our Temple.

At the April board of directors meeting, we had a lengthy discussion on the pros and cons for OBT to acquire the property. Though we were in agreement that having some control over the property, delaying development next door and acquiring a great investment property would be a great thing, the amount of work, allocation of funds, and the cost were major concerns. Also, would the purpose be for investment or to develop additional Temple space? a community center? senior care home? No decisions have been made, other than to get other opinions from specialists in real estate and investment properties. We are hoping that this lot remains available until we fully consider all the options so we can make the right decision. If you have your own thoughts on the matter, please discuss this with any board member and we will continue the dialog at our May meeting scheduled for the evening of the 8th at 7PM. This is an open board meeting so please feel free to attend.

In Gassho,
Yoshi Ono



Summary notes of April 10 ***OBT board meeting*** ***Ken Garner, OBT Secretary***

Summary notes of April 10, 2009 OBT board meeting

- The New York Temple is publishing an English translation of the Gomushu's book. The intent is to publicize this volume and get it distributed and onto the shelves of major booksellers. All BCA temples have been contacted to help sponsor this work. It was moved and approved for OBT to provide a \$1000 sponsorship donation.
- The Board approved installation of new insulation in the temple and annex. This insulation will greatly reduce our energy usage to heat and cool the temple thereby making us greener and saving us money. It is estimated that due to the energy savings we will recoup the expense within seven years.
- We are updating our standing committee list. The Board invites all interested members to be involved with your temple and to sign up for a committee.
- The copier in the annex is starting to show its age and usage. We are looking into a replacement for it.
- We have set up a PayPal account for OBT. PayPal will allow us to accept donations on-line. See Ken Garner for additional information.
- The Board discussed the property for sale next door to the temple. (See the President's Message in this newsletter) Comments from the temple members are encouraged. See any board member to share your thoughts and idea

The next OBT Board meeting will be May 8, 2009; at 7:00 p.m. OBT members are welcome and are encouraged to attend. Minutes of the meetings and reports are available in the temple office in the annex or by contacting the OBT Secretary.

OBWA news

The monthly meeting for May which was scheduled for May 16 has been changed to May 23, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. due to preparation for Gotanye Otoki. The cooking schedule for Gotanye is:

May 16 (Sat) 9:00 a.m. Cooking Noodles/Making dashi
May 17 (Sun) 8:00 a.m. Finishing preparation



Dharma school news ***Ann Shintani, Coordinator***

Service Chair for May is Bodhi class, so if you have a child in the Bodhi class (grades 1st-3rd) please arrive a few minutes before 10am to help plan the day's regular services (May 3, 10, 24, and 31). Because of the few Bodhi class members, we appreciate any help from the other classes.

Wheel of Dharma Garden: Hiroshi Yamauchi has planted a fig tree, an ume (plum) tree, and Japanese scallions, and has plans to plant a kaki (persimmon) tree. Students plan to add items to the garden beds. We remind students to monitor their vegetables and to pull out weeds only. If you would like to help with this project, you can buy "membership certificates" at \$5 each, which we will use to purchase small tools, gloves, and other materials.

Gotan-E/Hatsumairi: The temple will be recognizing new infants and new members on May 17th during the Gotan-E service. If you have not yet received an invitation to this service to present your child after the beginning of May, please contact Etsu Osaki or Rev. Gibbs.

New Dharma School Service Books: The updated service books are now available for purchase for family use at \$7 per book. Purchases may be made during refreshments at the Scrip table. We are also offering opportunities to sponsor books for temple use through donations at \$7 per book (make checks payable to "OBT Dharma School").

Bowling with Sensei: Join us as we have some friendly competition at the Pro 300 Lanes, 3031 SE Powell Blvd, on Sunday, May 24, after service, and in lieu of classes. In the past, we have held this event for just Dharma School families, but this time we invite Dharma Exchange participants to join in the fun. The cost is \$8/person, which includes shoe and lane rental. The fee for Dharma School students and teachers will be picked up by Dharma School. If you don't like to bowl, join us anyways to watch, snack (sorry, no outside food is allowed), and chat.

Dharma School Swim Party: To celebrate the coming of Summer, please join the Dharma School on June 28 (after service) as we go the Holladay Park Plaza indoor swimming pool for fun and snacks (of course). If you have questions, please contact Marilyn Achterman or Jean Matsumoto.



Youth advocacy committee ***David Fukunaga***

At the beginning of March and the very end of February, I got the invitation to attend the YAC Young Leaders Today Conference at the BCA National Council down in Irvine, CA. It was exclusively for Youth Minister's Assistants and Sr. YBA leaders. It was a really cool experience, not just because I got to see all my Youth Advocacy Committee friends again, but because of the program they did there.

The main purpose of the weekend was to find a way to make Buddhism more relevant to youth today as well as tomorrow. We also talked about how we can make YAC more visible to the temples of the BCA and get more people to support it and be involved with it.

On Sunday that weekend, there was a special sort of service. All the ministers were up on the Onaijin, and after they chanted Sambujo, each one of them was replaced with a Youth Minister's Assistant, including Socho Ogui. This was supposed to symbolize the transition and passing of the torch from generation to generation. It was as if the leaders of the BCA were telling the youth, "it's your turn now".

I look forward to the next YAC event and I thank all the people who helped make this one possible for me.



Garden beautification ***Jayne Ichikawa***

It was a beautiful, sunny Hanamatsuri Day on April 5th. Our temple Japanese garden was also blooming with lovely flowers and neatly trimmed shrubs. Many thanks to the following people who came out on a rainy Sunday the week before to clean, trim and weed the garden: Ray Fukunaga, Janice and Mike Ishii, Katie and Ken Kawazoe, Tom McCormack, Jerry and Bradley Sumoge, and Shinya and Jayne Ichikawa. If you are a gardener or enjoy our temple garden, you might want to join us. We only meet about three times a year. Contact Jayne Ichikawa if you are interested at: sjichi@verizon.net



Lotus circle - May ***Jean Matsumoto***

Altar flowers for April 12 were donated by Ami Kinoshita in memory of (imo) sister-in-law, April Masako; and correction: May Saito imo husband, Emo.

Altar flowers will be provided by:

May 3 - Kan and Miki Yagi imo of their parents, Koichi and Koto Aoki, and Tokutaro and Rie Yagi.

May 10 - Shinya and Jayne Ichikawa in honor of all mothers May 17 and 24 - Open

May 31 - Kiyomi Dickenson imo mother, Toshiko Kitagawa; Sumie Ishida imo parents, Yoshikyo and Hisayo Yamamoto.

These flowers are arranged so beautifully each month by the members of the Flower Toban and we are truly grateful. We do have a Lotus Circle page on the OBT website so contact Ken Garner (webmaster@oregonbuddhisttemple.com) and put your thoughts or pictures of your loved ones on our page. If you would like to be a member of the Lotus Circle or need information, contact Jean Matsumoto, 503-280-2463 or e-mail, jamatsumoto@gmail.com.



**Obon
commemorative lanterns
Bill and Linda
Tanaka**

Once again our Obonfest will feature Commemorative Lanterns to celebrate our Kangi-e or "Gathering of Joy" on August 1st. Last year more than 150 red and white lanterns were hung from lines radiating from the center of our dance area. The White lanterns commemorated the life of a loved one, remembering relatives, friends, or even pets regardless of when they passed away. The names of the honored ones are beautifully written in kanji, katakana and/or English with the date of passing.

Red lanterns give you an opportunity to help sponsor the Obon Festival. You can have the name of any business, family or person's name written in kanji, katakana and/or English to show your support for the event and our temple.

If you have lanterns from last year, you can have them hung for a nominal fee, to continue in this joyful remembrance. What better way to celebrate this "Gathering of Joy"! **Order form is in this newsletter and at the temple.**

Once again donations would be appreciated to offset the cost. Send donations to the Oregon Buddhist Temple Commemorative Lanterns.

Oregon Buddhist Temple
3720 S.E. 34th Ave
Portland, OR 97202

Thank You

Chairpersons
Bill and Linda Tanaka
(503) 292-4269



**New children's books in the
library
Etsu Osaki**

Genza-san: Myokonin, vol. I and II, by Terumi Fujiki, Buddhist Education Center, Anaheim, CA: 2008. These comic books are based on the life of Genza who lived his life based upon the teachings of Shinran and Rennyo. Vol. I tells the earlier part of Genza's 89 years of life.

Bon Dance in Hawaii: Dance with the Wind and the Spirits by Jill Suzuki Haworth, Mutual Publishing, Honolulu, HI: 2004. Colorful illustrations help to tell the story of the Bon Dance in Hawaii which isn't too different from ours.

Erika-san by Allen Say, Houghton Mifflin Books, Boston: 2009. Erika loves the Japanese print of a small house that her grandmother has. She is determined to go there. After college she gets a teaching job in a small village in Japan and finds her true love.

The Monster of Lotus Lake: A Jataka Tale, illustrated

by Sherri Nestorowich, Dharma Publishing, Berkeley, CA: 2004. Jataka tales were told by the Buddha during his 40 years of preaching. 547 of them were remembered. With imaginative illustrations, the story tells of 3 princes and their adventure with a monster.

Three Wise Birds: A Jataka Tale, illustrated by Zohra Kalinkowitz, Dharma Publishing, Berkeley, CA: 2005. A king raises 3 birds as his children. To dispel the doubts of his people, the birds give wise counsel and help the king to rule with kindness and wisdom. Colorful illustrations.

Zen Shorts by Jon J. Muth, Scholastic Press, New York: 2005. A giant panda tells 3 classic Zen stories that abound with enlightenment and love. Beautiful watercolor and pen illustrations.

New books in the library

Buddhist Women Across Cultures, edited by Karma Lekshe Tsomo, State Univ. of NY Press: 1999, 297 pages, paperback. The author is an instructor of Buddhism at Chaminade Univ. in Honolulu. Part I covers Buddhist women in Asian traditions—SE Asia, China, Japan, Tibet. Part II called "Contemporary Buddhist Women" includes articles discussing conception and abortion, comparing Buddhist and Christian Women's Experiences and a chapter on Aung San Suu Kyi: A Woman of Conscience in Burma.

Connections: Awakening the Human Heart and Mind Through Poetry and Art, Vista Buddhist Temple, 2006, pamphlet. These poems and artwork were created by members of the Vista Buddhist Temple. They range from young children to the temple's minister.

Currents of Change: American Buddhist Women Speak Out on Jodo Shinshu by Patricia Kanaya Usuki, Institute of Buddhist Studies, Berkeley: 2007, 174 pages, paperback. Rev. Usuki is currently the minister at San Fernando BT. "Through research surveys and interviews she finds that women are aware of the contrast between the egalitarian teaching of Shinran and the male-dominant culturally Japanese institution that exists today. The challenge facing Jodo Shinshu in America is to face the dynamics of change already taking place within it and embrace its opportunity to reinterpret the Shin Buddhist doctrine in new ways that speak to contemporary people everywhere."

The Dalai Lama's Book of Wisdom, edited by Matthew E. Bunson, Random House, London: 1997, 257 pages, hardback. A collection of short pieces on peace, love, religion, justice and human rights as well as other social issues.

Faces of Compassion: Classic Bodhisattva Archetypes & their Modern Expression by Taigen Dan Leighton, Wisdom Publications, Somerville, MA: 2003, 347 pages, paperback. Bodhisattvas are models of wisdom and compassion. The author, a Zen teacher and scholar, explores the imagery and lore of the 7 most important of these.

It's Easier Than You Think: the Buddhist Way to Happiness by Sylvia Boorstein, Harper, San Francisco:

1997, 145 pages, paperback. The author is a practicing psychotherapist. Using stories from everyday experiences she shows the path to happiness through Buddha's basic teachings.

Meditation in Action by Chogyam Trungpa, Shambala Publications, Berkeley: 1969, 74 pages, paperback. Chapters include the life of Buddha, Bodhi mind, patience, meditation and wisdom.

My Pure Land by Hiro Sachiya, Nembutsu Press, Los Angeles: 2003, 187 pages, paperback. The author graduated from the doctoral program at Tokyo Univ. but wasn't interested in studying the Buddha-dharma until it hit him in his mid thirties. In his inquiry into the essence of the Pure Land, he came to the conclusion that it is "The place of my birth." In this easily read book he shares his personal experiences encountering the Buddha-dharma in his daily life.

Radical Acceptance: Embracing Your Life With the Heart of a Buddha by Tara Brach, Bantam Dell, NY: 2003, 333 pages, paperback. The author is a clinical psychologist, lecturer and popular teacher of Buddhist mindfulness (vipassana) meditation. The book "is a clear, practical, and caring guide that shows us how to move from shame and self-hatred to a revolution in consciousness: loving ourselves for what we are, and for the innate capacities of the human heart."

You Don't Have to Sit on the Floor: Making Buddhism Part of Your Everyday Life by Jim Pym, Seastone, Berkeley: 2002, 181 pages, paperback. The author is both a Buddhist and a Quaker. Tai Unno says of this book, "This unpretentious little book opens wide the gates of Buddhism to invite all who seek a path of liberation and freedom."

Condolences ...

- To the family of the late Frances Ota who passed away April 3, 2009.

2009 Memorial Chart

Year Of Passing	Memorial	Year Of Passing	Memorial
2008	1 year	1987	23 year
2007	3 year	1983	27 year
2003	7 year	1977	33 year
1997	13 year	1973	37 year
1993	17 year	1960	50 year

If you would like to have a memorial service performed for loved ones or ancestors, please make arrangements with Rev. Gibbs as early as possible.

May Toban

Fugate, Brenda	Fugate, Jerry
Garner, Ken	Garner, Maho
Harder, Diane	Ichikawa, Jayne
Ichikawa, Shinya	Inoue, Kay
Kinoshita, Ken	Kono, Kim
Liljeholm, Edward	Mishima, Kumiko
Monas, Tsuyako	Nakashima, Angie
Nakashima, Glen	Nakashimada, Leke
Nasman, Keith	Nasman, Kerrie
Pawlowski, Clara	Pawlowski, Steve
Shibata, Alan	Shibata, Julie
Sunamoto, Kazuko	Ueno, Setsu

Toban not only means "my turn" but "my chance" to show my appreciation to all the men and women whose monetary donations and hard work resulted in this beautiful place, our Temple, to hear the Dharma.

Words of Jean Matsumoto – 1995

Go to OBT website ... click on Bookstore.

Then jump onto Amazon.com through the link in the bookstore. Do some shopping --

and the temple gets a bonus
from your purchase!!!

If you buy Scrip for Amazon to use as
the payment, it's DOUBLE
the donation !!!

but if I am not
paying any extra...
who is paying that?
I don't get it !!!

Some nice
affluent elves
must be
living in this
computer ...



<http://oregonbuddhisttemple.com>

See Ken Garner, Cynthia Wong or Gordon Wong if you have any questions or comments about OBT's Scrip program. You can also email scrip@oregonbuddhisttemple.com.

Remember, Scrip makes great gifts.

Thank you for paying 2009 Membership – membership registration form is attached.

